



## NEWS RELEASE

Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission  
P.O. Box 53127, Oklahoma City, OK 73152-3127  
Contact: Tod Bryant 405/525-3556, ext. 106, [tod.bryant@iogcc.state.ok.us](mailto:tod.bryant@iogcc.state.ok.us)

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### GOV. HOEVEN ELECTED IOGCC CHAIRMAN FOR 2003

Gov. John Hoeven was elected 2003 chairman of the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission (IOGCC) during its Midyear Meeting in Traverse City, Michigan.

Hoeven will succeed current IOGCC Chairman Gov. Mike Huckabee of Arkansas. He will be the third North Dakota governor to lead the IOGCC, following former Govs. Ed Schafer in 1995 and George A. Sinner in 1987-1988.

"I am honored to be chosen to lead the IOGCC. The organization's long-time mission of promoting domestic oil and gas resources along with environmental protection and resource conservation is critically important in today's world," Hoeven said.

Gov. Hoeven currently chairs the IOGCC's Petroleum Professionals Blue Ribbon Task Force, which was formed late last year and charged with finding solutions to the oil and gas industry's looming shortage of experienced professionals.

Other new IOGCC officers elected at the Midyear Meeting include:

- Russell J. Harding, director of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and current IOGCC second vice chairman, was elected vice chairman.
- Lynn Helms, director of the North Dakota Industrial Commission's Oil and Gas Division, was elected second vice chairman.
- Don Mason, utility commissioner of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, was elected second vice chairman-elect.

The new officers will assume their duties during the IOGCC's 2002 Annual Meeting Dec. 15-17 in Little Rock, Ark.

The IOGCC, founded in 1935 to ensure the efficient recovery of domestic petroleum resources while protecting health, safety and the environment, represents the governors of 30 oil and gas producing states. Seven states are associate members, and the IOGCC international program has six affiliates. For more information on the IOGCC, visit its Web site at [www.iogcc.state.ok.us](http://www.iogcc.state.ok.us).